

CAPSULE SUMMARY

~~BA-1068~~ BA-1067

Herbert Rosen House

410 Railroad Avenue

East Towson, Baltimore County

Circa 1890

Private

The house at 410 Railroad Avenue was constructed circa 1890 in the East Towson neighborhood of Baltimore County. The history of this property dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19th century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20th century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects and builders. Many of the current homeowners and tenants living in the neighborhood are descendents of the first African-American residents.

The Herbert Rosen House, circa 1890, is sited close to Railroad Avenue on a level grassy lot among mature trees and shrubs. The two-and-a-half story, three-bay house has a solid random rubble foundation and a wood frame structural system clad with wood shingles. The first floor features an off-center entry with a 4-light paneled wood door and a set of paired wood sash windows with 12/1-lights set in thin molded wood surrounds and sills. The windows and surrounds are repeated in the second floor. The house has a one-story, two-bay front porch supported on brick piers and one replacement concrete block pier. The porch features turned wood posts supporting a shed roof. A rounded arch window with 2/2-lights is set in a square edge wood surround in the front gable peak. The gable peak is clad with a decorative pattern of square and fish-scale wood shingles. The house has a boxed wood cornice and a front gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. There is one central-interior brick chimney. A non-historic shed is associated with the property.

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Category		Ownership		Current Function		Resource Count		
						Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input type="checkbox"/>	district	<input type="checkbox"/>	public	<input type="checkbox"/>	agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	landscape	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private	<input type="checkbox"/>	commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/>	recreation/culture	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	both	<input type="checkbox"/>	defense	<input type="checkbox"/>	religion	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	site			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	domestic	<input type="checkbox"/>	social	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/>	object			<input type="checkbox"/>	education	<input type="checkbox"/>	transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
				<input type="checkbox"/>	funerary	<input type="checkbox"/>	work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Total
				<input type="checkbox"/>	government	<input type="checkbox"/>	unknown	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	health care	<input type="checkbox"/>	vacant/not in use	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	other:	
						Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory		
						1		

7. Description

Inventory No. ~~BA-1068~~

BA-1067

Condition

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> altered |

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Herbert Rosen House, circa 1890, is sited close to Railroad Avenue on a level grassy lot among mature trees and shrubs. The two-and-a-half story, three-bay house has a solid random rubble foundation and a wood frame structural system clad with wood shingles. The first floor features an off-center entry with a 4-light paneled wood door and a set of paired wood sash windows with 12/1-lights set in thin molded wood surrounds and sills. The windows and surrounds are repeated in the second floor. The house has a one-story, two-bay front porch supported on brick piers and one replacement concrete block pier. The porch features turned wood posts supporting a shed roof. A rounded arch window with 2/2-lights is set in a square edge wood surround in the front gable peak. The gable peak is clad with a decorative pattern of square and fishscale wood shingles. The house has a boxed wood cornice and a front gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. There is one central-interior brick chimney.

A non-historic shed is associated with the property. The one-story, one-bay shed has a poured concrete foundation and concrete block walls. The entry features a one-leaf wood door. The shed has a clear plastic cornice and a flat roof.

8. Significance

Inventory No. ~~BA-1068~~ BA-1067

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates 1890 ca.

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates 1890 ca.

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The house at 410 Railroad Avenue was constructed circa 1890 in the East Towson neighborhood of Baltimore County. East Towson is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, specifically the pre-Civil War development of an African-American neighborhood in a predominately white community. The history of this property dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendants of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19th century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20th century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures. Many of the current homeowners and tenants living in the neighborhood are descendants of the first African-American residents.

East Towson as a whole is representative of an important phase of architectural development in Baltimore County, illustrating the dilution of popular architectural styles to more efficiently meet the needs of the neighborhood, and the builders' untrained abilities to execute the fashionable ornamentation. Thus, East Towson provided lower cost housing in a more suburban neighborhood, rather than the urban setting their economic status typically perpetuated.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. ~~BA-1068~~

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See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 0.16 acres

Acreage of historical setting 0.16 acres

Quadrangle name Towson

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Herbert Rosen House is located at 410 Railroad Avenue in the vicinity of East Towson in the Ninth District of Baltimore County.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title K. Baynard, J. Bunting & J. Riggle, Architectural Historians

organization E.H.T. Traceries

date 10/9/01

street and number 1121 5th Street NW

telephone 202/393-1199

city or town Washington

state DC zip code 20001

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-1067
~~BA-1068~~

Name Herbert Rosen House

Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

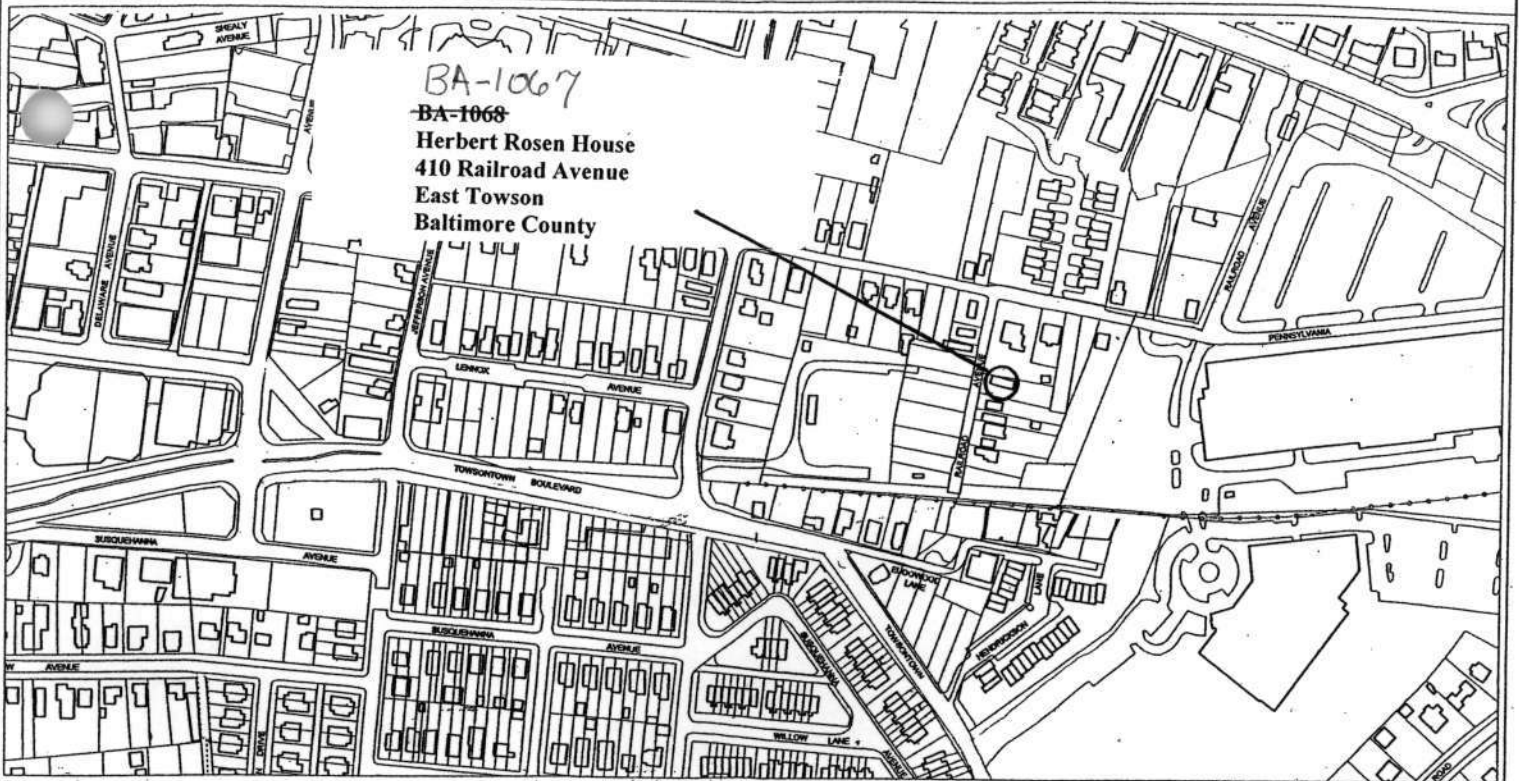
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. A History of Baltimore County. Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys. Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850

East Towson: Planimetric Data



Prepared by:
Baltimore County Office of Planning
401 Boskey Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204
June, 2001

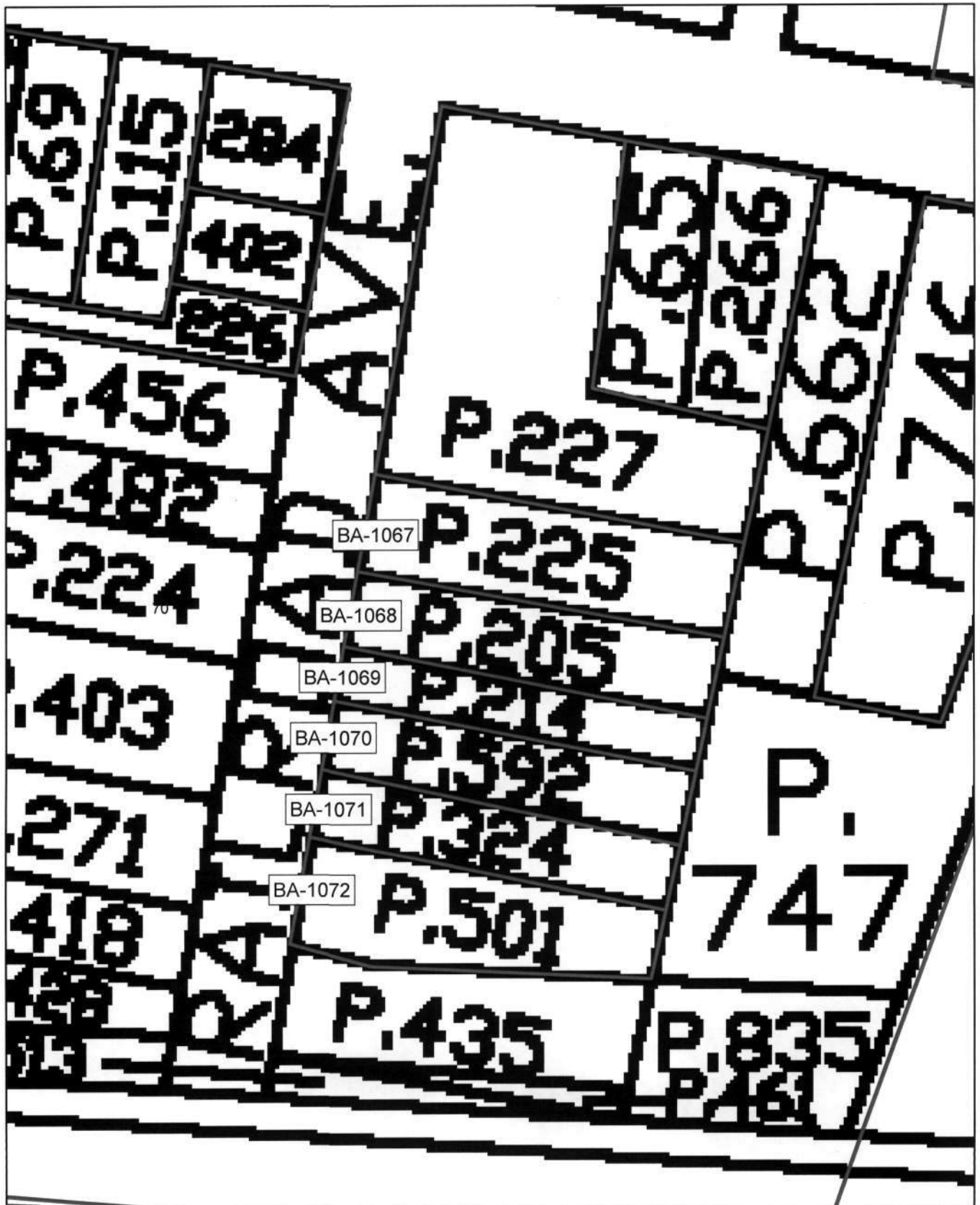


Scale
1 inch = 200 feet
1:2400
100 0 100 200 Feet

Legend

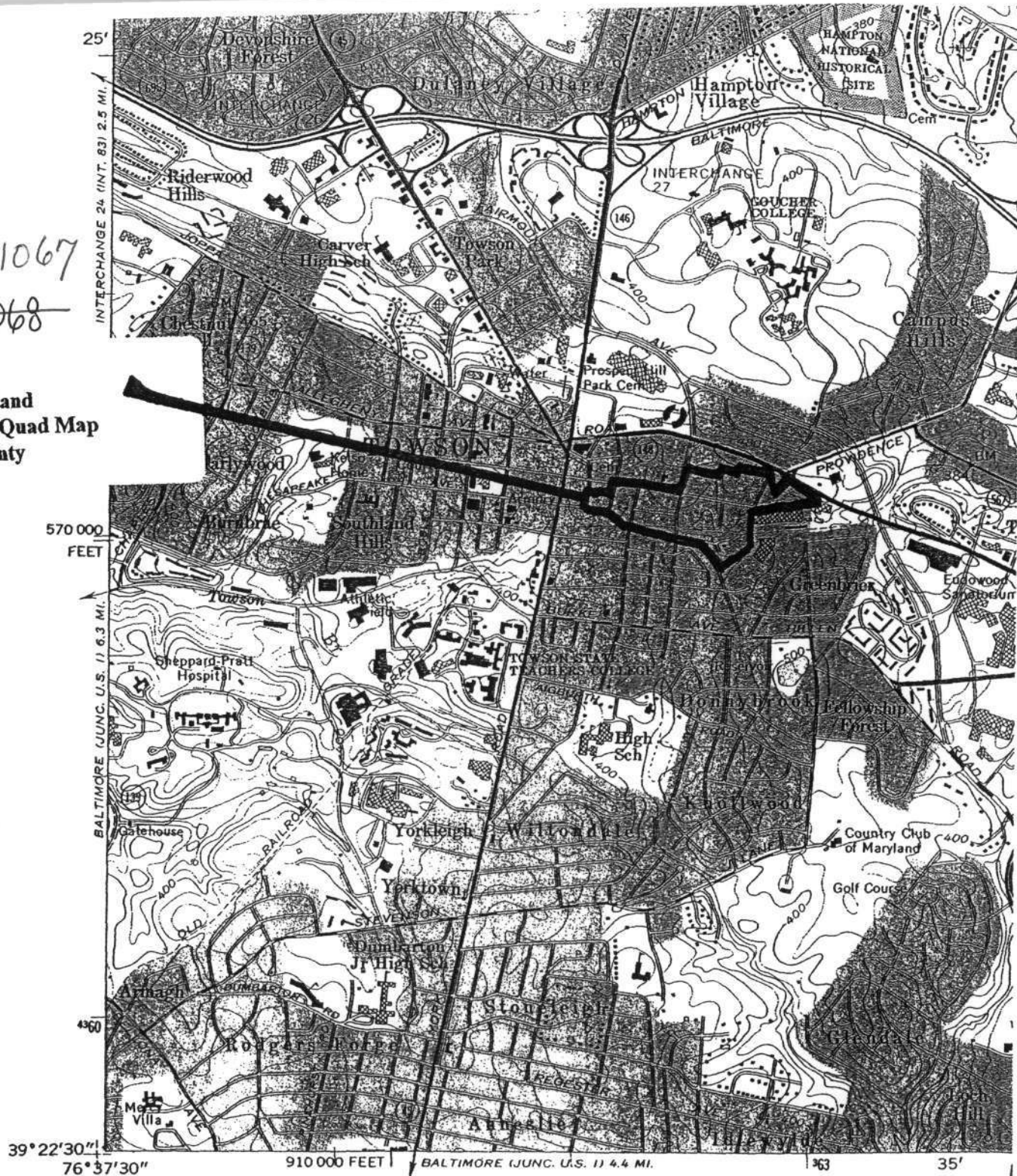
Study Area Boundary	Hydrographic Features
Paved Roads	Buildings
Unpaved Roads	Vegetation
Paved Parking / Driveways	

Data Sources:
Planimetric Data: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)
Parcel Boundaries: Baltimore County OIT GIS
Services Unit (1:2400)
Study Area: Baltimore County Office of Planning (1:2400)
Coordinate System:
- Maryland State Plane: NAD83/91 Horizontal Datum
Elevations in Feet: NAVD83 Vertical Datum
Date of Data Capture: March 1996
Scale of Data Capture: 1" = 100'



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East Towson
Towson, Maryland
Towson USGS Quad Map
Baltimore County



(BALTIMORE WEST)
2662' SW

Mapped by the Army Map Service
Edited and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and Maryland
Bureau of Control Surveys and Maps

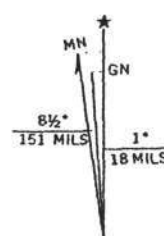
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1943. Topography by planetable surveys 1944
Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1957

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from
aerial photographs taken 1966 and 1974. This information not
field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



1067

BA - ~~1068~~

HOUSE, 410 RAILROAD AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

10/2001

MD-SHP0

NORTHWEST CORNER

1 of 3



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~~1068~~

ENCLOSURE

66144

HOUSE, 410 RAILROAD AVENUE
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
TRACERIES

10/2001

MD-SHPO
SOUTHWEST CORNER

2 OF 3



1067
BA-~~1068~~

HOUSE, 410 RAILROAD AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY MD

TRAILERIES

10/2001

MD-SHPD

EAST ELEVATION

3 of 3

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

THE ROSEN HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

410 Railroad Ave.

second

CITY, TOWN

Towson Md.

VICINITY OF

Baltimore

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☒ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Herbert Rosen

Telephone #: 667-6800

STREET & NUMBER

1107 York Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Cockeysville Md. 21030

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #: 4944/456

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson Md. 21204

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

BA-1067 - 410 Railroad

before 1915

This attractive two-story frame house is two bays wide by three bays deep. It is covered with wooden shingles over the original horizontal wood siding. A porch along the street-facing gable end features flat cut-out balusters.

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**☒ EXCELLENT☐ GOOD☐ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☒ UNALTERED☐ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☐ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

410 R.R. pre-1915 Herb Rosen

This two-story frame house was built before 1915. It is two bays wide by three long bays deep, with a street-facing gable end. The house was originally covered with German siding, but, now displays wooden shingles painted avocado green. It is situated over a stone cellar whose exterior entrance is located on the central southern bay.

The floor plan consists of a stair hall to the northwest and a parlor to the southeast followed by one room in the center of the block. To the rear, a kitchen in the northwest corner has a pantry to the southwest and an open porch to the southeast. The stair features a turned newel post and balusters.

The west, or street, facade is attractively arranged. The porch's shed roof is supported by turned posts. Its balustrade is filled with flat jigsaw=scut balusters. Two attached 2/2 windows light the parlor, while a transomed door leads to the stair hall. The second floor is lit by two 2/2 windows, and the decoratively shingled attic gable end is lit by an arched 2/2 window.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE**PERIOD**

☐ PREHISTORIC
☐ 1400-1499
☐ 1500-1599
☐ 1600-1699
☐ 1700-1799
☐ 1800-1899
☐ 1900-

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ ARCHITECTURE
☐ ART
☐ COMMERCE
☐ COMMUNICATIONS

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING
☐ CONSERVATION
☐ ECONOMICS
☐ EDUCATION
☐ ENGINEERING
☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
☐ INDUSTRY
☐ INVENTION

☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
☐ LAW
☐ LITERATURE
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSIC
☐ PHILOSOPHY
☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

☐ RELIGION
☐ SCIENCE
☐ SCULPTURE
☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ THEATER
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES**BUILDER/ARCHITECT****STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

In East Towson, absentee landlords own about twenty percent of the property. The Rosen House is an example of an absentee landlord/tenant relationship, with the difference being that the landlord encourages that the tenant buy the house instead of renting so as to give the community more stability. This house also is an example of how some whites identify very strongly with the black community.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marcus Pollock/coordinator Merry Stinson/architect

7/77

ORGANIZATION

The Committee to Save E. Towson/Towson Ymca

DATE

823-8870

STREET & NUMBER

600 W. Chesapeake Ave.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

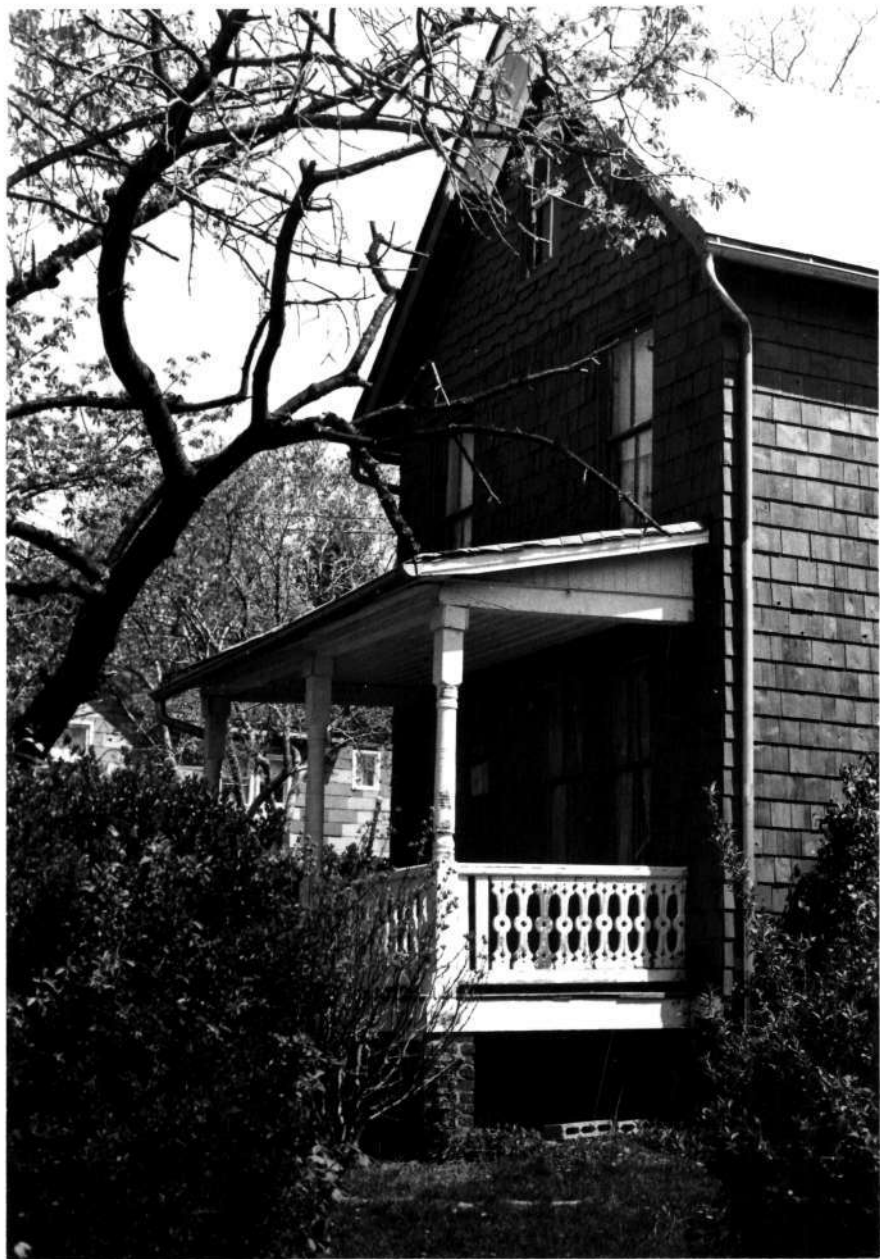
Towson Md. 21204

STATE

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



BA-1067
Rosen House
410 R.R. Ave.
Towson, Md.
west

Merry Stinson
1977